

REMARKS

Claims 64-87 are pending in the application with claims 64-67 amended herein and new claims 68-87 added herein. The amendments made to claims 64-67 are not related to the statutory requirement of patentability. Such amendments now more positively express limitations that were previously inherent in such claims and, accordingly, are not for the purpose of narrowing and do not effectively narrow the scope of the amended claims.

The Office requires amendment of the title which is made herein as requested. The Office requires amendment of the Abstract which is made herein as requested. The Office objects to the disclosure and requests updating of the related patent data which amendment is made herein as requested. Claims 65-67 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The preamble of such claims is amended herein to reflect the subject matter of the claim from which they depend. Withdrawal of the above objections and rejections as to matters of form are requested in the next Office Action.

Claims 64, 66, and 67 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Garcia. Applicant requests reconsideration.

Claim 64 sets forth an intermediate construction of an integrated circuit that includes, among other features, a raised mandril over a semiconductive substrate, the raised mandril being raised out from the substrate and having at least one edge substantially perpendicular to the substrate and having at least one beveled edge. A layer of structural material forms an edge defined feature on the at least one perpendicular edge. Page 4 of the Office Action alleges that side walls 12 of Garcia disclose the claimed

substantially perpendicular edge and sloped walls 16 and 17 disclose the claimed beveled edge. However, thorough review of Garcia reveals that metal traces 18-22, 18'-22' only extend from bond pad ledges 13 and 14 over sloped walls 16 and 17 to active chip surface 11. Applicants assert that Garcia does not in any way disclose or even suggest that any of metal traces 18-22, 18'-22' may be formed on sidewalls 12. Such a teaching is not shown in the figures or discussed in the text of Garcia.

Applicant asserts that Garcia does not provide the alleged teachings and, accordingly, fails to disclose each and every limitation of claim 64. At least for such reason, Garcia does not anticipate claim 64.

Also, the Office Action fails to identify the location in Garcia of any teaching of metal traces 18-22, 18'-22' on sidewalls 12. Notably, 37 C.F.R. 1.104(c)(2) requires that the pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained. The particular teachings relied upon also must be designated as nearly as practicable. The rejection of claim 64 is thus defective and should be withdrawn or corrected in a non-final action.

Claims 66 and 67 depend from claim 64 and are patentable at least for such reason as well as for the additional limitations of such claims not disclosed. Applicant requests allowance of claims 64, 66, and 67 in the next Office Action.

Claims 64, 66, and 67 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Akram. Applicant requests reconsideration.

The subject matter of claim 64 is described above. Pages 4-5 of the Office Action allege that Figs. 1 to 21, specifically Fig. 9, show the claimed structure of a layer of structural material forming an edge defined feature on the at least one perpendicular edge.

As revealed by column 5, lines 34-35 of Akram, Fig. 9 is a cross-sectional view taken through elongated mesa 108. Accordingly, it is impossible for Fig. 9 to show an edge defined feature on the at least one perpendicular edge because Fig. 9 does not show a perpendicular edge. The view of elongated mesa 108 is an internal view of the middle of elongated mesa 108.

Figs. 3, 6, and 12 show oblique views, however, none of such views show any edge defined feature on the end walls of elongated mesa 108. Applicants assert that Akram does not anywhere disclose or suggest conductive material layer 114, conductive traces 116, chrome layer 118, middle layer 120, copper layer 122, or trace terminal portions 128 forming an edge defined feature on at least one perpendicular edge. None of such layers are disclosed by Akram as being on the end walls of elongated mesa 108. Instead, some of such layers are merely described as extending over side walls 110.

The Office Action does not identify what structures of Akram are considered to teach the claimed at least one beveled edge or the at least one perpendicular edge. Applicant asserts that Akram does not disclose any materials on at least one perpendicular edge. Even so, it is impossible for Applicant to determine what structures the Office considers to disclose the at least one beveled edge and the at least one perpendicular edge. At least for such reasons, Akram fails to disclose every limitation of claim 64 and does not anticipate claim 64.

Notably, 37 C.F.R. 104(c)(2) states that the pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained. Also, a particular teachings relied upon must be designated as nearly as practicable. At least for such additional reason, the rejection of

claim 64 is defective and should be withdrawn. Claims 66 and 67 depend from claim 64 and are patentable at least for such reason as well as for the additional limitations of such claims not disclosed. Applicant requests allowance of claims 64, 66, and 67 in the next Office Action.

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 103(c) Applicant asserts that Akram cannot preclude patentability of the subject claims since, at the time of filing the priority document of the present application, such priority document and Akram were both assigned to Micron Technology, Inc. Accordingly, Akram cannot be used in any subsequent rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 103.

Claim 65 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia in view of Dilorio. Claim 65 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akram in view of Dilorio. Applicant requests reconsideration.

Pages 5-6 of the Office Action acknowledge that neither Akram nor Garcia disclose or suggest the claim 65 limitation that the bevel is less than or equal to about 45°. The Office relies upon Dilorio as allegedly providing such teaching. However, Dilorio does not disclose or suggest and is not alleged by the Office to disclose or suggest the subject matter described herein as missing from both Garcia and Akram. Since all of the cited references are similarly deficient, combination of the references cannot somehow be considered to disclose or suggest subject matter that is absent from each reference. Claim 65 depends from claim 64 and is thus patentable at least for such reason as well as for the additional limitations of such claim not disclosed or suggested.

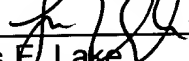
If the Office maintains the opinion that Garcia and/or Akram anticipate claim 64, then Applicant invites the Office to fully comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.104(c)(2) by identifying the column and line number and/or the figure and reference number of the teachings established herein by the Applicant as being absent from the cited art. However, if the rejections of the present Office Action are corrected and reiterated then such corrected rejections cannot be presented as final rejections since the Office failed to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.104(c)(2) in the present action.

Applicant herein presents new claims 68-87 that are expressly supported by the present specification. In particular, Figs. 15A to 16B and the text associated therewith support the subject matter of new claims 68-87.

Applicant herein establishes adequate reasons supporting patentability of claims 64-87 and request allowance of all such pending claims in the next Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12 Jun 2003

By: 
James E. Lake
Reg. No. 44,854